Government look to the public and the Press to do all that is necessary and possible to prevent the hoarding of the coins. Government also wish to draw the attention of all concerned to the fact that under Rule 90 of the Defence of Travancore Rules, the acquiring of coins in excess of minimum personal or business requirements and dealings in small coin at other than the face value is illegal and punishable.

Huzur Cutcherry, A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR,
Trivandrum, 11th January 1943. *Financial Secretary to Government.*

DEWAN-PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT.

President: Order, order. I have directed the Secretary to this Council to place on the table of the House for the information of the honourable members a proof of the remarks that I made at the session of the sister House. It would, however, not be seemly nor would it convey my idea of the importance of the House if I were to content myself with having done that. And therefore with your permission, I propose to address a few remarks by way of summarising the document that I have placed on the table of the House and also a few remarks by way of a supplement. But before I do so, there are one or two preliminary announcements to be placed before the House.

On account of the acceleration of the timing it has been generally found that 11 o' clock would be inconvenient to many members for meeting and therefore, if the House sees no objection, from tomorrow and subsequent sessions of the House whenever it meets, the House will meet at 12 o' clock to suit the convenience of the honourable members. There is no need to amend the standing orders, but this will be observed as a convention.

In view of the very great importance and urgency of the food problem in relation to the supply and the gathering of rice within and without the State and the matters connected with the production and distribution of tapioca, I have, as honourable members would notice, devoted considerable time in the course of these remarks to such topics. It is the intention of the Government in this matter to solicit, and to act according to, the opinions of the representatives of the people. I have therefore requested the members of the other House to stay on for a day or two so that informally the members of this honourable House and the other House might meet together this evening and if necessary tomorrow evening also for the purpose of dealing with the question and putting forward any suggestion by way of an amendment or by way of pointing out mistakes that have been committed or by suggesting further programme of action in regard to this most vital and crucial matter

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of the food problem—to securing the supplies, maintenance of supplies, stocking of supplies and the distribution of these supplies. I trust that honourable members of this House will find it convenient to participate in these functions. The Dewan will not preside at these meetings. I have requested—and I trust that that request will find favour with the honourable members of this House—the Deputy President of the other Chamber to preside over the deliberations of the two Houses. It is not a joint session. It is purely an informal meeting. But, I may assure the honourable members that any response to the questionnaire which will be placed before the honourable House, the answers that may be elicited from that joint meeting, will receive the utmost attention of the Government. As I have emphasised this elsewhere and wish to reiterate now especially at this juncture and having regard to the inportance and urgency of the problem, the utmost possible co-operation between Government machinery and non-officials is required.

I have requested Mr. J. H. Cousins to speak to the members of the two Houses informally upon the recent work that has been done in the way of the rehabilitation of our Museum and our allied institutions. This Government hold the view that notwithstanding the emergence of this catastrophic phenomenon of the war, matters of culture and of intellectual pursuits should receive the attention of Government. Bearing these matters in mind, honourable members will find, if they visit those institutions—and I am requesting Dr. Cousins to take the honourable members to those institutions—they will find perhaps a unique collection of bronze statuary collected gradually under careful personal supervision and they will also find a newly acquired collection of gold coins perhaps unique in India—gold coins from the earliest times up to the present moment, gold coins of Indian States including Travancore, gold coins—Roman, Greek, Russian, Italian, and so forth, and numismatically and culturally they will be of the utmost importance. I trust that the honourable members of the two Houses will take advantage of the opportunity and after visiting the institutions for which special facilities will be given, they will, if they so care, listen to a general discourse from Dr. Cousins on the subject.

Fellow members of the Upper House, as I have stated here, the first matter I desire to bring to the notice of the honourable members of this House is a thought by way of consolation and gratification with reference to the manner in which the great war is being fought to a finish at this moment. It is not too much to say that after many reverses, and set backs,

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the tide of war has turned, although he would be foolishly optimistic who would rule out the possibility of air raids and even infiltrations in such places like Cochin and Travancore, which opinion has been expressed in the right quarters also, as they are particularly vulnerable, in the case of a desperate enemy who may choose to do some times spectacular deeds for the purpose of retrieving by a last stroke his fortunes. Subject to all these things, it might be said and confidently hoped that the war is being won. When I say that, I also wish to emphasise and stress very strongly with pride and exhilaration that all Indians must feel in regard to the great and memorable part played by the Indian soldiers, sailors and airmen in many theatres of the war. But that alone will not meet the situation. Twenty-one thousand persons and more from Travancore have been recruited to the three Services. That is a number which does not yield to that of many bigger units in India, and I think we have reason to congratulate ourselves and congratulate those heroic men who are taking such risks and undergoing such hardships for the purpose of creating a new world in which Travancore it is hoped, will not play an insignificant part.

Especially do I wish to mention one matter and that is with reference to the exploits of His Majesty's Ship "The Bengal" which dealt with a Japanese man of war and came out triumphant out of the struggle. There were thirty Indians in that crew and four out of those thirty belonged to Travancore. It is a matter of special pride and gratification that Travancore has done so well. Travancore has also contributed to the three armed forces in the main theatres of the war and they are fighting a great secular battle. I go further.

During the last half a century and more, there has been a highly unnatural and undeserved differentiation between the inhabitants of the Punjab, U. P., and Rajputana and the inhabitants of the south of India, the latter being characterised as non-martial races who would not do their work and who would not acquit themselves adequately in the grim struggle of the present day. Those who argued like that forgot history and psychology. They forgot history. Clive won India with the aid of the South Indian soldiers. Particularly, they forgot the history of Travancore, the history of the martial qualities of the Travancoreans, the history of the Nayar Brigade. They forgot psychology because they forgot that the war of the present is not a war of brawn, muscle or brute strength. The war of the present is a matter of mathematics; the war of the present is a matter of engineering, is a matter of supplies, and is a matter of calculation and nobody dealing with North India and South India had ever said anything else than that the South Indian, in those matters, can hold his own in comparison with anybody else. I hope that such forgetfulness,

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such ignoring of just claims will cease to be a feature of the Indian Government and the British Government and that, in future, if such a dire necessity should ever come, they should no longer be under the necessity of begging for contribution of men from America, Australia, South Africa and other parts of the world, because notwithstanding the existence of four hundred millions, they cannot raise five or six million soldiers. I trust that this spectacle will not be repeated in the history of the world; I trust that sufficient confidence will be reposed in the people of India so that men will be available for fighting according to the up-to-date methods and not according to the 18th century methods. I may state that the signs are propitious and at last, it seems that common sense is drawing upon the world though slowly.

I am glad to announce that in addition to the money contribution by way of naval reinforcements, contributions by way of planes and contributions for the benefit of the Indian soldiers and so forth, His Highness the Maharaja has quite recently sanctioned two lakhs of rupees for the Indian soldiers who are heroically fighting under the banner of the Allies in the Middle East. Out of those two lakhs, a lakh and sixty thousand has been utilised for the soldiers in Jerusalem and the balance will be utilised in Egypt, I may also say that His Highness the Maharaja, realising the plight of the refugees, like the Polish refugees, has made a contribution for their benefit also. His Highness has always been anxious to second and support all efforts made not only for the winning of the war but for making it possible for those who are fighting the war to realise that there are people in India who are anxious to extend to them all the comforts and all the relief that is possible. In addition to these 21,000 people who are actually taking part in this great struggle, Travancore has sent between eighteen and twenty thousand men to Assam and other localities for purposes, which in the matter of military importance and in the matter of winning the war are not less vital than the actual armed forces and their work. Those men have gone to places which are by no means enviable. Many of the men who have gone there have been stricken with malaria. We are trying to succour them. Their heroism and their desire and willingness to undergo any amount of hardship for this common cause are also praiseworthy and deserving of gratitude and chronicling as the men in field itself. It may be said that they are well paid. Yes, they are well paid. Each of them gets a rupee a day and then rations, clothing, blankets, cots and matresses and various other things and it may also be said that each one of them is sending large sums of money to his own family. These things are but nothing compared with the hardship which they are undergoing.

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I now turn to the financial position of the State. We have budgetted in 1117 for Rs. 279 lakhs. The total according to the accounts of 1117 is Rs. 314 lakhs, an absolutely unprecedented figure and I am in hope that by the time the next budget session meets, it shall probably be ranging between Rs. 3 1/2 and 4 crores. We have set apart a considerable sum as reserve. We have been able, because of our financial position, to spend without hesitation Rs. 72 lakhs which is the total up to this morning for the purchase of rice. Rs. 72 lakhs have been spent in the way of purchase of rice from the Central Provinces, Sind, Bezwada and Tanjore. There was some delay on account of the present transport difficulties. But those delays have been conquered and those consignments are now coming regularly day by day. Every morning sees a new consignment of rice coming from one place or other to Cochin, Trivandrum, Quilon and many other places. Here I must pause for a moment and say that throughout the whole of our endeavour to get rice for the State, we have received the most ungrudging, generous, and fraternal assistance from the sister State of Cochin. (*Applause.*) It is impossible to exaggerate the comradeship and the fellow-feeling manifested by men like Mr. Dixon to whom it is my elementary duty to convey the thanks of Travancore. We came to an agreement very early that we shall fight our battles for rice together as one unit, that if Mr. Dixon could go to Delhi and put forward the case on behalf of Travancore he would do it on behalf of Travancore and Cochin. He has done it on more than two occasions and he has been conspicuously successful. He also readily agreed that if the Travancore Representative went to Delhi or Madras to fight the same battle, he should also represent Cochin and speak on behalf of Cochin. In that way Mr. Parameswaran Pillai, Mr. Salter, Mr. Narayana Aiyar have gone to Delhi and Madras and spoken on behalf of Cochin and Travancore and their efforts have been signally successful. Therefore we are today, as in the case of the other war, of which I was speaking, at the turning of the tide.

I cannot let pass this opportunity without paying my heartfelt meed of admiration and sympathy to the people of Travancore. Hardly any person would have confronted this serious situation verging on starvation and kept his head so cool and preserved such equanimity and such docility and such instinctive sense of law and order as the people of Travancore. It is one thing to be brave in the face of danger. These are sentiments of heroism. Immediate peril evokes certain sublimated feelings, but it is a much more difficult thing for one to resist the ravages of slow starvation, face

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the pangs of hunger on the part of one's wife and children and still keep a stiff upper lip and act as orderly citizens of a State. The part played by the people of Travancore during the difficult days, which we flatter ourselves are coming to an end or almost to an end, is beyond all praise and it would be ungrateful for a man who does not acknowledge that in the fullest possible measure. Honourable members, when they study the statement that I have made with regard to the outlay of Rs. 72 lakhs for the purchase of rice must not go away with the impression that the problem has been solved. We are at the threshold of the problem. Why do I say so? Honourable members may know that at a particular stage, the Madras Government, which was the main source of supply of rice after the fall of Burma, said that its statistics were slightly inaccurate. Our statistics are by no means perfect. I do not think that the departments of the Government of Travancore are yet alive to the importance of accurate statistics. I have been trying to impress that on every department. Honourable members of the Legislature and Government officers should remember that statistics make their life. I can quote a number of bright and epigrammatic sayings by people who have condemned statistics and its study. But when it comes to asking the Madras Government that we want so much rice, and how much they can spare, naturally they are entitled to ask what is the proof that you want so much rice, what is the proof that your cultivation amounts to so much and what is the proof of your deficit. Unless we are thorough with our figures, we shall fail, and every Government officer who slackens, neglects or is indifferent in regard to this statistics is thus handicapping the State. The Madras Government supplied us the August and September quota which had been agreed upon. In October we were told that not a single grain of rice would come to this State, because they had no rice to spare. Rice went to Ceylon. Rice was not available for Travancore and Cochin. It was at this stage that a heroic fight was put up on behalf of Travancore and Cochin Governments and in that fight Mr. Dixon played a most worthy part. We have had our quota divided. The Government of Madras have been behaving on the whole very creditably and very generously and I must here and now acknowledge our gratitude to the Madras Government for having come to our succour at a time when, on account of the fall of Burma, we were well nigh destitute. But to do so will not be enough. The Madras Government was not able to supply all our need and the Commerce Department of the Government of India headed by Mr. Sircar, an old and much valued friend of mine, came to our rescue. He asked Bengal

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to supply us with rice. He asked the Central Provinces to supply us with rice. He asked Sind to supply us with rice. Just at that juncture the Midnapore troubles overwhelmed Bengal. The unprecedented cyclone and flooding of paddy lands made it difficult for Mr. Fazlul Huq to help Travancore. But the Central Provinces have sent their consignment. I am glad to announce that yesterday 3,950 tons of rice have just been secured from Nagpur and for this also not a little credit is due to Mr. Dixon and the right apportionment of the credit arises thus. It has been agreed between Travancore and Cochin that we should get four-fifths of the supplies and Cochin one fifth ; in other words, we will divide the supplies according to the proportion of population. Therefore in helping Travancore Mr. Dixon deserves special praise because he was not helping only the one-fifth, but the five-fifths.

We must conserve, acquire, store and keep every grain of rice that grows in Travancore. As I said elsewhere, whether we follow the doctrine of socialism, whether we are adherents of the doctrine of communism or not, the time has come when there can be no difference between the landholder and the non-landholder. Every land holder must hold himself as a trustee and act in a fiduciary capacity to the rest of the State in so far as one grain of rice is hoarded. In so far as there is profiteering in rice or tapioca, such persons are guilty of a breach of sacred trust and it is in that spirit that the Government has to convert itself into the owner of all the rice and tapioca in the State. If India had done that three years ago the problems of today would not have arisen because, on the whole, it cannot be said that India is a deficit co untry. It was the absence of co-ordination, the absence of planning, the absence of regimentation of transport efforts that have handicapped and made difficult the work of India. Even now except with regard to wheat, the Government of India have not started on a big programme. In the case of wheat all private transactions have been forbidden. There was a big surplus of wheat one or two years ago. Now the Government are purchasing all the available wheat. I am glad that the British Government are coming to the rescue of the Indian Government in arranging for the import of wheat from outside to meet India's need which would have been unnecessary if there was proper planning before. If there is import of wheat, a little more rice will be available for us. Let us hope that that wheat will come. But the point that I am on is this. Whether there is price control or whether there is a programme of Government purchase and Government distribution anywhere else, this Government after the most anxious consideration have arrived at the inescapable conclusion that so far as Travancore is concerned the problem of the present and the immediate future cannot be met

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unless the Government constitutes itself as the Agent and the Trustee of the people of Travancore. You may call it communism or socialism or whatever you please. But the cultivation has to be carried on. Certain fallow lands had to be cultivated. People said that it would not be paying to them. In the case of lands from which water had to be pumped out, the Government had to pay all the cost of the pumping out. Nevertheless, there were difficulties, and the Government had to tell the landholder that unless he cultivated every square inch, the Government would take over the lands and cultivate themselves. Then, I am glad to say, the landholders thought that discretion was the better part of valour, and they undertook to cultivate. There were other difficulties in regard to this cultivation too. It may be that on account of the previous history of the soil and the land, we may not get adequate return for the outlay in the cultivation. Any measure would have to be adopted to deal with the present situation. Feeling like that I have thought it best to summon to the aid of the Government of Travancore, the collective wisdom of the two Houses of the Legislature, so that they may point out where we have gone wrong, where we might better our efforts and what is to be done to solve the problem which affects all of us so vitally.

I need not deal with the question of tapioca. But one thing, must be borne in mind, that we are deliberately sacrificing an income of 20 to 30 lakhs of rupees per year in having forbidden the export of tapioca. Let the honourable members of this House remember that the much neglected and the much abused tapioca plant—and I have contributed my share to the abuse along with the others—the un-nutritious stuff, this stuff which should not be touched, has become the mainstay of the people of Travancore. If there was no tapioca, perhaps we would have been driven to the consuming of the leaves on the trees. In any case tapioca has become the mainstay. A tremendous amount of intensive and extensive planting of tapioca took place. Some of us, in our shortsightedness thought our propaganda efforts were successfully rewarded and that we had succeeded in arousing the tapioca consciousness of the people of Travancore; we were egotistic as we often are apt to be. The truth of the matter was that maize flour on which the Bombay and Ahmedabad mill-owners depended for the sizing of their cotton clothes, was generally obtained from the Far East and from certain countries in the Middle East and in the West. That maize flour was absolutely stopped so that tapioca flour, tapioca starch, became the only possible substitute, if the mills should produce their goods and market them. Naturally middlemen intervened. The most

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enterprising Muslim merchants, whose commercial operations extend from Sind to Calcutta and along the whole coast line, suddenly felt an uncontrollable enthusiasm in the matter of tapioca and they collected tapioca and the starch and put up prices and entered into contracts with the Bombay mill-owners. A sort of restraint was imposed. A hundred most ingenious devices were adopted to defeat the efforts of Government. The ingenuity manifested by the profiteers both in the matter of rice and tapioca is not a matter to be discounted, because so much intelligence in more peaceful times is bound to lead to very fine results ; but at this moment that intelligence is somewhat misdirected and has to be penalised. We had no other alternative excepting to prohibit the exporting, in any form, of tapioca, chips or starch or flour. And what did we find ? We found that taking advantage of the economic situation and absolute need of the Bombay people for the tapioca starch, the utmost possible adulteration was resorted ; sand was put into the flour. Fibers and leaves were crushed and added and more than one mill-owner said 'If this is the kind of stuff that Travancore can supply, we do not think we can deal with Travancore." Taking advantage of that speculative period, every mischievous and suicidal step for the purpose of adulterating tapioca was resorted to in order to increase the weight and in order to increase the quantity of the so-called starch. Government forbade export. We received justifiable and very vehement complaints from various Governments and organisations protesting at the sudden stoppage of their work and the Government of India responded, rather reacted, by lessening by 10 per cent. the amount of sizing which is necessary in regard to cloth. They tried also to stimulate the production of maize. But there is no doubt that tapioca starch, as an element in the work of the Bombay, Ahmedabad and Nagpur and other mills, has come to stay and every hour that we are keeping this restriction on export, we are losing a considerable amount of money in respect of what is bound to be a monopoly product. What does that mean ? These times require such restriction on export. But if we get more rice from outside, if the Bombay mill-owners and the other Governments who require our tapioca starch will give us the equivalent in rice, we should be willing to send out tapioca. And if we are able by intensive methods, to cultivate more rice, we shall be willing to send out tapioca, but not till then, not when tapioca continues to be that it now is, the mainstay of the people of the State.

In connection with the hoarding and profiteering, certain strong measures had to be taken by this Government. Those measures were taken not without considerable hesitation, not without pain of mind, but the position had to be fully appreciated,

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There was arising in the country, a feeling that rich people were allowed to keep large stocks in their possession and that Government was acquiescent if not actually approving in their attitude towards these people. In a country approaching starvation a feeling of that kind was bound to lead to most undesirable repercussions. On more than one occasion, I was afraid of food riots, and the looting of private houses and of shops. We had a precursory of that sometime earlier. Tapioca carried in a cart was snatched in the middle of the way by an angry and demonstrative crowd. The cart-man and the agent sympathised with the crowd and unloaded the tapioca that was being taken from, say place A to place B. They saw starvation in front of them and they said 'Rather than take it to some middleman or some other merchant, we will allow you to take the tapioca provided you pay the price in full.' They paid the full price at the spot and took hold of the stuff. How could you prevent that? What Government dare prevent such a phenomenon? If these people who are usually so quiet, so orderly, and so well-behaved, thought Government was also a party to this profiteering, and encouraged the hoarding because they were afraid of the big men, or were not solicitous of the poor men, it would have been a great calamity. Therefore the determination of Government was to take hold of the most prominent men and at the risk of arbitrariness, try to prevent a danger which would be very real in their own cases, because the very first places to be attacked would be their own houses, and godowns and shops. I wish to say no more on that subject. It conveys suggestions for the future.

One of our great difficulties, as I have already pointed out, was with reference to our transport. As stated elsewhere, I would gladly abolish the railway from Shencotta to Trivandrum; it is so utterly futile and useless for us and conducted on such leisurely lines that an ordinary walk would probably accomplish the journey in the same time as the railway. This railway is perhaps the most unbusinesslike railway in India. If the railway line had been cut from Tinnevelly to Trivandrum, it would have crossed very fertile lands. But some interests were at work; so they took the railway line through the hilly country comparatively unproductive, and for that reason, we have never derived any real advantage from that railway. And I have never made a secret of my feeling and conviction that not one foot more of railway line will be laid out in Travancore, if I have any say in the matter. But even with this railway, there was no way of getting rice or any other commodity transported easily.

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Sind for instance has now allowed us a fairly handsome quota. I inspected the Sind rice and found it was excellent. There was a fear that that rice would not be as good in quality as the rice from the other sources. But having seen it and inspected it, I am convinced that it is as good as any rice that you can get. But how is it to come here? It has to travel all the way from Lahore to Allahabad and from Allahabad to Madras and from Madras to either Quilon or Cochin and in the present state of congestion in the railways, it will take a month or a month and a half for the rice to reach Trivandrum from Sind. Even by a sailing vessel, it is a matter of 10 to 14 days.

Feeling like that and conscious that the future of Travancore as a maritime State, is bound up with the future of the coastal shipping, this Government have purchased four ships, and the purchase of those sailing vessels, I am grateful to acknowledge, has been sanctioned by the Government of India last week or so. These would be invaluable to us for bringing rice from Bombay or Sind or even Bezwada.

In addition, four more sailing vessels are being built, but built so that they may be fitted with engines when the war is over and we get business. And it is the intention of the Government to go on building more and more ships until the whole of our export and import trade can be transacted on Travancore bottoms.

Steps are also being taken for starting factories in the State. The inauguration of the heavy chemical industry is of the utmost possible importance for the production of sulphuric acid and of artificial fertilisers. If we have to deal with our food problem, intensive cultivation of our field is a matter of paramount interest and such intensive cultivation cannot be carried on without the artificial fertilisers such as ammonia, phosphates and so forth. It will be the endeavour of this Government as soon as possible, even during the duration of the war, to start factories towards that end. Our position is much more serious than that of the Madras Presidency. The Madras Presidency has a large cattle population. Our difficulty is on account of our specific conditions in Travancore. The cow dung that is elsewhere used as manure is used for fuel here. The cow dung which could be used for fertilising fields is not so fully utilised with the result that there are no other manures and consequently the productivity of the soil decreases. If on the other hand you deny to the peasant the cow dung, he wants ane alternative for that and the amount of alternative fuel, as it is availabl in Travancore, is exiguous indeed. It is a difficult problem and ite

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can be successfully solved by artificial fertilisers being produced here and obtained expeditiously. So the problems are the problems of food supply, intensive cultivation, extensive cultivation, of bringing under cultivation all swampy areas that may be possible, etc. In carrying out that policy, Government have to come to another decision.

This Government have been noticing with surprise and pain the large amount of encroachment that has been taking place unauthorisedly in every part of the State. As I said elsewhere, probably it is only one of the few localities of the world where trespass as such, wrong doing as such, is held to entitle a man to receive special treatment and special rewards. Therefore this Government have now arrived at the conclusion that not one square inch of land in Travancore which is available to Government will ever be registered to anybody. The only manner in which cultivation will be allowed will be by leases of 3, 5, 7, 10 or 12 years. There will be nobody who will hereafter claim one inch of land by way of registry from the State. There has been far too much of this thing in the past, and what has happened is, that profiteering in land has taken place. Attempts have been made to help Travancoreans, but they have not always been able to help themselves. And the moment a sale takes place, leaders of Travancore have promptly executed deeds to outsiders in respect of the very land which came to them as Travancoreans and would not have been given to them except as Travancoreans. We do not desire to put such temptations in the way of subjects of Travancore, for we are passing through very difficult times. Property that can be concentrated in Government will be so concentrated in trust for the people and no rights will be allowed to spring up in any person, unless on a limited basis and for a specific object. And I do not hesitate in saying that if it is possible to stretch the law, to get back the lands from anybody who is unauthorisedly in possession, every attempt will be made to stretch the law for that purpose. Lawyers are freely allowed to appear before me and get 'stay proceedings' almost automatically as a matter of course. A lawyer has to be paid his fees. I am a lawyer and I have always allowed a 'stay' because I know for a fact that a client will not pay fees unless a stay order is obtained. I do hereby give public notice that no such order implies that the petition for registry will be allowed in favour of the petitioner.

Now this is our programme. In order to succeed in that programme we want two things. We want the fullest co-operation of every element in the State and what is much more important ; we

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do not want active opposition or submerged opposition. Let me give you an instance of what such a submerged opposition can be. A gentleman called G. Raman Menon has sent a memorial to His Highness the Maharaja. He is too insignificant a man to be taken serious notice of, but such activities by way of collecting signatures to such a memorial give rise to problems of incitement of popular discontent with which no ordered Government can afford to trifle. I warn Mr. G. Raman Menon and people of that kind that this Government will have no hesitation in seeing him safe and secure under lock and key until the duration of the war and the passing of the present crisis.

I also find that in regard to what are called cardamom encroachments, a series of petitions are coming up before Government. In some cases lawyers appear ; in some others personal appeals are made. It is no doubt the fact that a very large enterprising group of people opened up large tracts of country owing to their private initiative and enterprise and have made this place a kind of monopoly centre for cardamom. All credit to them for that purpose. But that has not been entirely a philanthropic business. Cardamom has not been an unprofitable crop. If Government have given direct and specific undertakings, no Government can go back on them. In regard to a certain number of memorials which point out that there are equitable grounds in favour of certain people, Government will look into these grounds very carefully and decide according to the best of the light. But if a person says "I was given registry of 10 acres of cardamom land. For beneficial enjoyment, I encroached on another 100 acres and I hope that my further trespass on 300 acres also will be allowed and so on". Such attempts will be met by definite and immediate action, of course after giving the stay order and all the process connected with it.

I have done. I have thought it right to place before this honourable House full facts in their possession and of the crisis with which we are faced. God grant that the Government may get the utmost support from the members of the Legislature and the people of Travancore in grappling with the situation, the seriousness of which cannot be over-estimated.

One word more. I may say that, as announced yesterday, taking into account the present increase of price in essential food stuffs, the daily allowance of the members of the Legislature has been increased from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6.

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